

# Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program (FB4P) Process for Industry Investigation

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## Designation Item

This section details the item that has been investigated for designation in the FB4P.

**Item Investigated:** Sorbents

**Item Description:** Sorbents represent that group of materials processed for clean up and bioremediation of oil and chemical spills, disposal of liquid materials, and to prevent leakage or leaching in maintenance applications, shop floors and fuel storage areas. Products in this item are normally light in weight, produce little dust and provide superior absorbing capabilities through wicking or sponge like action. Biobased sorbents are typically produced from corncobs, cotton fibres, nut pith and other plant fiber, often combined with gelling agents.

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## Industry Investigation

There are four main sources of information used to gather data about items for designation. These include Internet search engines, the Thomas Register, industry associations, and biobased industry contacts. Each of these sources provides different results. The Internet search engines and the Thomas Register provide many results when a keyword is entered. However, when investigating products through the industry associations and biobased industry contacts, the results tend to be product or company specific. A lengthy, but thorough list of biobased companies which product the designation item can be developed best by utilizing all four information sources.

## Internet Search Engines

When searching the Internet, each search engine utilizes a different algorithm to find related topics. To maximize results and ensure correct data, keywords are entered into several search engines. Primary search engines include Google, Yahoo, WebCrawler and Meta Crawler.

Search Engine	Keywords	Results
Google	Sorbents Absorbents Quick Dry Floor Sweep Bioremediation Oil Absorbents	<a href="http://www.boomenviro.com">www.boomenviro.com</a> <a href="http://www.dawginc.com">www.dawginc.com</a> <a href="http://www.cepsorbents.com">www.cepsorbents.com</a> <a href="http://www.newpig.com">www.newpig.com</a> <a href="http://www.spill911.com">www.spill911.com</a> <a href="http://www.sossorbents.com">www.sossorbents.com</a> <a href="http://www.npscorp.com">www.npscorp.com</a> <a href="http://www.absorbent.com">www.absorbent.com</a> <a href="http://www.absorbentsonline.com">www.absorbentsonline.com</a> <a href="http://www.westernsafety.com">www.westernsafety.com</a>
Yahoo	See Previous	<a href="http://www.oildri.com">www.oildri.com</a> <a href="http://www.ncga.com">www.ncga.com</a> <a href="http://www.allsafetyproducts.biz">www.allsafetyproducts.biz</a> <a href="http://www.superiorsweeps.com">www.superiorsweeps.com</a> <a href="http://www.sanitarysupplyco.com">www.sanitarysupplyco.com</a> <a href="http://www.floorsweep.net">www.floorsweep.net</a> <a href="http://www.orisonmarketing.com">www.orisonmarketing.com</a>
Alta Vista	See Previous	<a href="http://www.kleentec.com">www.kleentec.com</a> <a href="http://www.azcocorp.com">www.azcocorp.com</a>

		<a href="http://www.m2polymer.com">www.m2polymer.com</a> <a href="http://www.petrolrem.com">www.petrolrem.com</a> <a href="http://www.cepsorbents.com">www.cepsorbents.com</a> <a href="http://www.alphasourceintl.com">www.alphasourceintl.com</a>
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### Thomas Register

The Thomas Register, a free web service found at <http://www.thomasregister.com/>, provides a database of over 173,000 companies that can be searched by company name, product name or keyword. Each result contains contact information and may also include other useful information such as a product catalog.

Keyword	Results
Sorbents	<a href="http://www.sorbentproducts.com">www.sorbentproducts.com</a> <a href="http://www.newpig.com">www.newpig.com</a> <a href="http://www.mtpulaski.com">www.mtpulaski.com</a> <a href="http://www.slosman.com">www.slosman.com</a> <a href="http://www.uprightinc.com">www.uprightinc.com</a> <a href="http://www.ybdco.com">www.ybdco.com</a> <a href="http://www.labsafety.com">www.labsafety.com</a> <a href="http://www.bamcorporation.com">www.bamcorporation.com</a> <a href="http://www.wwcannon.com">www.wwcannon.com</a> <a href="http://www.shelfpluscatalog.com">www.shelfpluscatalog.com</a> <a href="http://www.stutzcompany.com">www.stutzcompany.com</a>
Absorbents	<a href="http://www.fmspecialty.com">www.fmspecialty.com</a> <a href="http://www.adcoa.net">www.adcoa.net</a> <a href="http://www.pwperkins.com">www.pwperkins.com</a> <a href="http://www.colbymfg.com">www.colbymfg.com</a> Enviromet <a href="http://www.americantex.com">www.americantex.com</a>
Floor Sweep Compounds	<a href="http://www.burtlumber.com">www.burtlumber.com</a> <a href="http://www.ecolab.com">www.ecolab.com</a> <a href="http://www.kwwpaper.com">www.kwwpaper.com</a>
Oil Dry	None

### Industry Associations

Industry associations provide a good source to identify potential manufacturers, determine additional keywords for internet searches, and provide general descriptions of products within an item. Many associations maintain official websites with lists of member organizations and in some cases catalogs of available products.

Association Investigated / Contacted	Results
Bioremediation Consortium Safety Systems Hawaii International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association National Corn Growers Association Spill Control Association of America International Spill Control Organization	<a href="http://www.SuperAbsorbentCompany.com">www.SuperAbsorbentCompany.com</a> <a href="http://www.petropages.com">www.petropages.com</a> <a href="http://www.oilsuck.com">www.oilsuck.com</a> <a href="http://www.greenproducts.com">www.greenproducts.com</a> <a href="http://www.kengro.com">www.kengro.com</a> <a href="http://www.organicprocessors.com">www.organicprocessors.com</a> <a href="http://www.hobbsbondedfibers.com">www.hobbsbondedfibers.com</a>

	<a href="http://www.bestcobs.com">www.bestcobs.com</a> <a href="http://www.phaseiii.com">www.phaseiii.com</a> <a href="http://www.america-west.net">www.america-west.net</a> <a href="http://www.oildri.com">www.oildri.com</a> <a href="http://www.mtpulaski.com">www.mtpulaski.com</a>
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### Biobased Company Contacts

Company contacts come as a result of interaction with government officials, researchers, and industry representatives. FB4P staff follow-up on personal referrals or potential leads to possible biobased products.

Company	Contact Person	Results
Accountable Products	Ernest Fleming	Corn Cob Sorbent
Green Products Company	Matt Schryver	Green Tru Absorbent
Orison Marketing, LLC	Shawn McGlothlin	Metrecz Absorbents Miracle Sweep
Phase III, Inc.	Richard Lowell	Oil Sponge

### Conclusion

The results from the four information sources indicate that over sixteen manufacturing companies in the United States are currently producing Sorbents that may be considered for inclusion in the Federal Biobased Products Preferred Procurement Program.